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FRANK G. CARPENTER'S LETTER

GUATEMALA IS SCENIC RIVAL OF SWITZERLAND

HAS 28 VOLCANOES AND WATERFALLS 700 FEET HIGH AND THE WELL OF DEATH.

Is Biggest and Richest of Central American Republics.
A White Man's Country--Big Coffee Plantations in the Hands of the Germans--Honduras and Its Two-wheeled Carriage--Triumphal March Through Guatemala, and How Cities and Towns Were Replanted for the Occasion.

(Copyright, 1912, by Frank G. Carpenter.)

GUATEMALA CITY, Guatemala, Nov. 9.--I want to give you a bird's eye view of the Guatemala republic. It is the biggest of all the countries of Central America, and should the policy of secretary Knox reform its currency and give it peace and good government, it will be the paradise of the North American continent. It is already a Garden of Eden as far as its natural resources are concerned, and American money is beginning to make some parts of it blossom like the famed rosebush at Pasadena, Cal. I have never seen land richer than that which I came through on my way up to Guatemala City. I landed at Port Barrios, on the Caribbean sea, and came up the Motagua valley to the foot of the mountains through a region

of bananas and jungles as fine as any to be found on this continent. Five years ago that country was nothing but jungle. It was a tropical paradise, with palm trees over a hundred feet high, and a mass of vegetation like that of the lower slopes of the Himalaya mountains or of the well watered valleys of Africa. Americans have already cut down about 20,000 acres of that region and have planted it in bananas.

As I came into Port Barrios, I saw a ship going out which had 7,000,000 bananas in its hold, and was told that the output for this year will be enough to give three bananas to every man, woman and child in the United States, and leave some to spare. Since coming here I have taken a run down to the Pacific slope, and I find the lower lands there exceedingly rich. A great part of my journey on both sides of

the mountains has been through coffee plantations, which are growing fruit superior to that of Brazil and equal to that of Arabia and Java.

Guatemala in 1912. But before I go further let me give you an idea of the country. You can get the size from any book of statistics. Guatemala contains over 43,000 square miles. It is as big as New York, or about equal to the states of Ohio and Massachusetts combined. It is bigger than any other Central American republic and it contains, in fact, about one-fourth of all the land between Panama and Mexico. It is three times the size of Salvador and twice as big as Costa Rica.

Guatemala has more people than any other Central American state. It has over 2,000,000, but six out of every ten of these are Indians, and the country is run by the descendants of Spaniards and half breeds, who make the Indians do the work. Altogether there are more Indians here than the population of Philadelphia, and there are a little more than half as many who are half-breeds or Ladinos. The Indians and Ladinos are very interesting, and I shall write more of them in future.

The World's Biggest Relief Map. As to Guatemala, we can see it best at the race track here in the capital. This track is known as the Hippodrome, and it incloses a mile ring with various emblems of science and education inside it. Just opposite the grandstand is a stone temple, put up by the president in the interest of education, to the goddess Minerva, and on one side of this is the biggest relief map of the world.

This relief map covers several acres, and by climbing the platform at the side of it we can see Guatemala in miniature. The map is made of cement, plaster and other materials which the weather has turned to stone. It is connected with the water works, and as we look the map in charge turns a crank and real mountain water begins to flow through the miniature rivers and fill the lakes. On one side we can see the waves of the Caribbean sea, now a great expanse of silver, and on the other the waters of a little Pacific ocean dash upon the shores. All of the ports are marked by landing piers and strips of steel which the way over the country, representing the railroads. Along the Pacific slope you can see the Pan-American railway, which is fast approaching completion, and which, as soon as Mexico is quiet, will give us an iron track from here to New York. You can see the new lines building down toward Salvador and those which cross the mountains from coast to coast.

A Tropical Switzerland. This map shows the nature of the country. With the exception of two strips of lowlands lining the Atlantic and Pacific oceans, it is all mountains and valleys. It has scenery which is equal to that of Switzerland, and the beauty about it is that it is green all the year round. It is largely volcanic. Guatemala has 28 volcanoes ranging in height from the mountains of the Alleghenies to those of the Rockies, and some of these volcanoes are still in eruption. Right here in Guatemala City, which is almost as high as Denver, I can see vapor rising from the Volcano de Agua, and last night there was fire all along its south slope. Many of the strangers here thought the mountain was in eruption, but we afterward discovered it was only forest fires which had sprung up in the woods. The most of the volcanoes of Guatemala are perfect cones, and many of them are the equals of Fujiyama in their symmetrical outline.

Looking at the map below us, we see that one of the mountains is half blown away. This is the Volcano of Santa Maria, which burst forth about 10 years ago and destroyed many villages, covering the country with volcanic ash. Farther over you may

see Pacaya, which has had a half dozen eruptions since the Spaniards came.

Swampy Lakes and Well of Death. Some of the lakes of Guatemala are wonderfully beautiful. Lake Atitlan, which is on the west slope, is an immense sheet of blue, with five volcanoes surrounding it, and Amatlan, which is an hour or so by rail from the capital, is in sight of Volcano de Agua, and is as beautiful as any lake in Switzerland. Both of these lakes are great resorts, and in the future they may be winter homes for the United States. Lake Atitlan has 13 islands and the native Indians will row you about from place to place. Its waters have no large fish, and the story goes that this came from their being cursed by the priests because the people of the capital got their fish from there and made the Indian slaves do the fishing. Another wonderful lake is that of Yabed on the Atlantic side of the country. It is really an arm of the sea which flows through a rough canyon with a valley and there spreads out in a wide sheet of silver.

And then there is a sulphur lake in the Tecumburo volcano, which is 1200 feet in diameter. It lies right in the crater and its straw-colored waters bubble forth sulphurous gases. This lake is like the Dead Sea in that it has no fish, and not far from it is a little geyser called the Well of Death, which is said to kill birds, reptiles or anything that passes which breathes its fumes. I heard of a similar geyser during my stay in Central Africa, and was shown photographs of deer which had been killed by it.

Some Wonders of Guatemala. But these are only a few of the wonders of Guatemala. The whole country is one of mountains and valleys; of great canyons and strange caves. It has one waterfall 700 feet high, and hot springs which remind me of the Yellowstone. There is a volcanic lake surrounded by basalt cliffs 150 feet tall, and the surface of the lake itself is higher than the top of Mount Washington. Another lake is said to have a kind of red fish which were imported by the early missionaries, and about 40 miles from here on the road to Salvador is the Bridge of Slaves, which was built 100 years after Columbus discovered America. It is 10 feet wide and 75 feet long. It is made of stone, and there are many legends concerning the building. One of these is that the devil put it up in a single night on a contract with the architect, who agreed to give him his soul as the price of the job. The devil had finished his work, and the architect, who had completed the work when the day was dawning. Just at that time, however, the man who had made the contract repented and asked back his soul, thrust-

ing at the same time a crucifix in the face of the devil. His satanic majesty thereupon tried to kick over the bridge, but he succeeded in knocking out only one stone, which, I am told, is still lacking.

A White Man's Country. Guatemala lies in the tropics, but its altitude makes it a white man's country. The climate of the uplands is perpetual summer. The winter of the capital is warmer than that of Los Angeles, and one can have any kind of climate he wishes by choosing the altitude. There are, in fact, a half dozen zones. There is the hot zone, which runs along the sea level. This is so warm that negroes are brought in to work the plantations above 1000 feet, the climate is cooler, and at from 2000 to 3000 the temperature ranges from 62 to 77 the year through. If you want to go still higher, you can find colder weather. In the whole republic there are only two seasons, wet and dry, and on the higher lands the wet season is pleasant. The rainfall varies in different localities. In the banana lands through which I came on my way here it amounts to about 100 inches per year, and a little beyond that is a strip of land which is as dry as Arizona or New Mexico. There are mosquitoes in the lowlands, but further up the country is comparatively free from them.

Rich Land in Hands of Germans. Guatemala has some of the best soil in Central America. The land will raise anything. I see the finest of grapes, oranges, lemons and pineapples in the markets, and also tomatoes as big around as baseballs, and apples which look like Albemarle pippins. There are papaya and melons of all kinds, and every sort of vegetable under the sun. The country is one of coffee and corn and the great part of it will raise cotton.

At present, coffee is the chief money crop of the republic. The harvest amounts to from 30,000,000 to 100,000,000 pounds every year, and the coffee is so good that it all goes to Europe. The plantations are largely in the hands of the Germans, who are gobbling up the best lands, and the best business of all kinds in this part of the world.

During a chat which I had the other night with a leading American he told me that the Germans already own 35 percent of the coffee plantations. Some of them have bought their property during the hard times of the past, and others have married the daughters of rich Guatemalans. The Germans learn the language as soon as they enter the country, and many of them settle down and do not leave until they have made fortunes. They are more farseeing than the Americans, and they are saying their plans to monopolize the republic.

Here at the capital the Germans are a close corporation. They have their own clubs and they do everything they can for Germany. Not long ago some Americans got concessions for electric light here in Guatemala City. They thought their rights were exclusive, but they found that the Germans, who owned the electric light plant, had bought the rights before they came. The Americans then tried to buy the light plant, and failing that, to get the balance of the railroad concession. The Germans refused on the ground that they did not want American machinery to come into competition with the German electrical machinery. The electrical field here is now in the hands of the Siemens-Halske company, and the Westinghouse and General Electric companies of the United States will find it hard to get a foothold. The capital is lighted by waterpower from the falls of the River Michingia, the installation consisting of four turbines, operated by a flume 600 feet long. The works have cost about a million dollars in gold.

Secretary Knox and Central American. And just here I would say that American interests have been greatly

benefited by the visit of secretary Knox to Central America. This is so, not only of Guatemala, but also of Costa Rica and Salvador, and to some extent of Nicaragua. I first met the secretary in Costa Rica and I saw something of him also during his stay here in Guatemala. He was treated like a king by all the republics. When he landed in Costa Rica the governor of Port Limon was at the wharf and a special train was ready to carry him to the capital. There were signs of welcome at every station, and the Costa Rican flag and that of the United States waved side by side everywhere. At San Jose, Mr. Knox was given a grand dinner in the foyer of the \$1,000,000 theater, and that night the seats were taken out of the orchestra and the stage raised to give a ball in his honor.

Honduras and Its \$4,000 Carriage.

The secretary was treated with great respect in Nicaragua and the same was true of Salvador. He was not able to go to Honduras, but that country made great preparations for him. The officials expected to bring him from Amapala, their port on the Pacific, over the mountains to Tegucigalpa, the capital, which lies three days by stage in the interior, and to do this they sent to Guatemala for the best rubber tired carriage and horses that this country could furnish. They requested president Cabrera to pick out the carriage and team, and he bought them of the American Livery here at a cost of \$4,000 in gold. He sent them to San Jose, the port of Guatemala on the Pacific, from where they were to be shipped to Honduras. The arrangements were such that the turnout would have reached there in time, but alas, in loading the horses and carriage upon the ship the two hind wheels of the latter were overlooked and left behind. The next steamer did not arrive until about a week after Mr. Knox had left Salvador, for here, and had he gone to Honduras, the \$4,000 carriage would have been useless.

Guatemala and United States.

There is no doubt but that the Central Americans are jealous of us. They think our country is the best upon earth and that the United States want it. The better classes, however, realize that their future is wrapped up in our future, and that the Monroe doctrine is necessary to protect them from the nations of Europe. Guatemala is the natural field for American capital, and if it could have good government, fair taxation and protection it would be the richest country on the North American continent.

There are many here who tell me that the Guatemalans do not like Americans, but if the treatment of secretary Knox is to be considered, they think far otherwise. As soon as it was known that Mr. Knox was coming, the country was put in order for his arrival. Here in Guatemala City it was directed that all the houses be given a fresh coat of paint and for a whole month previous to his arrival the painters and whitewashers were at work everywhere. The dark rooms were shut up so that they glittered like gold, and the brass knobs on the balconies were treated likewise. Today there is no brighter town in the tropics than this. The buildings are of all the colors of the rainbow, and they are roofed with red tiles. Owing to the work done for secretary Knox, everything looks spick, span and new, and the whole town shines like Aladdin's palace, which sprang up in a night.

Triumphal March of Secretary Knox. The trip of the secretary through Guatemala was like the triumphal march of an emperor, the whole of the train that brought him over the mountains. He was received upon landing by the chief officers of the army and

navy and by the cabinet officials, who came a day's ride from the capital to be present at the landing. When our gunboat entered the harbor a salute was fired in his honor, and the special train was a mass of green palms and flags. The port of San Jose was decorated, and not only that, but every one of the towns through which the train passed on that day's ride up to the capital. Often the railroad was lined with palm trees for a long distance out from the towns, and at every city there were school children dressed in the national colors, who waved American flags as the secretary passed by. At every stop a band was on hand to play a salute, and when the train ran along the shores of Lake Amatlan there was a fleet of canoes manned by native Indians, who made a demonstration in his honor.

Arriving at the capital, we found an army of troops at the station, and the secretary's party were escorted in great state to the finest residence in Guatemala City, the millionaire owner of which had vacated in order to give the royal residence to Mr. Knox.

Streets Carpeted With Pine. During the secretary's stay here the streets over which his carriage passed were covered with sweet scented pine leaves, and the main streets for a distance of several miles were decorated with palms and with the flags of Guatemala and the United States, the two flags always waving together. The first night he came 50,000 Indians brought from all parts of the country marched in parade. They were dressed in their tribal costumes and the music was by their own native band.

On the next day, one of the events was a great celebration at the temple of Minerva, in the race track which I have described. At this thousands of school children, dressed in the national colors of Guatemala, and carrying the flags of the two republics, marched in procession past president Cabrera and secretary Knox. The little Guatemalans played "The Star Spangled Banner" and as they did so the natives all removed their hats. The next music was the national hymn of Guatemala, which was sung by the school children. At that time the Americans removed their hats. The streets from the secretary's residence to the race track was carpeted with pine branches, and it was over these sweet smelling pine that the secretary stepped that night to the ball, which was given in his honor in one of the chief official buildings.

In addition to these ceremonies, there were banquets, receptions and other parades; and at the close the secretary was taken in great state down to the Atlantic ocean. During the visit I was about much among the people and I heard only kind words for the United States.

FRANK G. CARPENTER.

While Smith was playing with the Jones boys, the mother, Mrs. Bann, said: "Willie, don't you know the Jones boys are bad boys for you to play with?" "Yes, mamma," replied the lad, "I know that. But don't you know that I am a good boy for them to play with?"--Exchange.

STATE OF OHIO, CITY OF TOLEDO, ss.

I, J. J. CHENEY, make oath that I am senior partner of the firm of J. J. CHENEY & CO., doing business in the City of Toledo, County and State of Ohio, and that I am the owner of the sum of ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS for each and every copy of CHENEY'S CURE that I have caused to be printed and distributed.

Witness my hand and seal at Toledo, Ohio, this 10th day of December, A. D. 1912.

FRANK J. CHENEY.

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